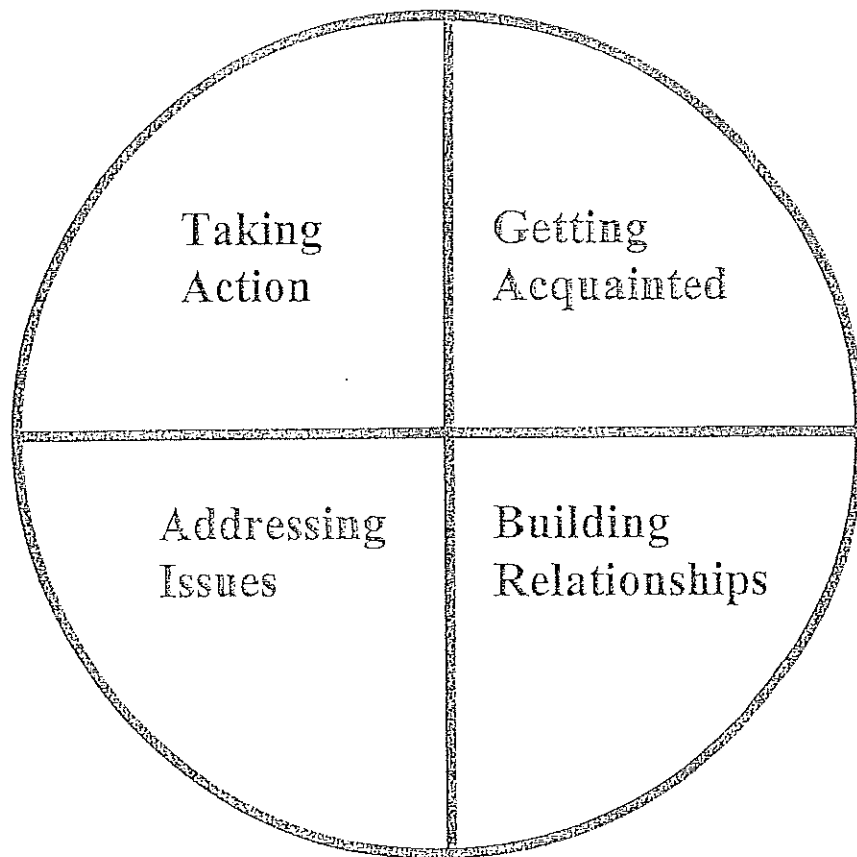


# Balance in the Process



## Restorative Justice Concepts

Restorative Justice is a set of practices and principles that create a different approach to dealing with crime or wrongdoing and its aftermath. Restorative Justice practices should rectify the dehumanization often felt by victims and offenders during their participation in the traditional criminal justice system. Restorative Justice seeks to assess the harm done by a criminal act and then determines what can be done to repair the harm while holding the offender accountable for his or her actions. Ultimately, Restorative Justice represents a philosophy that has implications and applications in our personal and collective lives beyond response to a criminal act.

Two Different Views	
Traditional Criminal Justice	Restorative Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime is a violation of the law and the state.</li><li>• Violations create guilt.</li><li>• Justice requires the State to determine blame (guilt) and impose pain (punishment)</li><li>• Central focus: Offenders getting what they deserve.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime is a violation of people and relationships</li><li>• Violations create obligations</li><li>• Justice involves victims, offenders and community members in an effort to put things right.</li><li>• Central Focus: Victim needs and offender responsibility for repairing harm.</li></ul>

Three Different Questions	
Criminal Justice	Restorative Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What laws have been broken?</li><li>• Who did it?</li><li>• What do they deserve?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who has been hurt?</li><li>• What are their needs?</li><li>• Whose obligations are these?</li></ul>

(Howard Zehr, Little Book of Restorative Justice)

## Key Restorative Justice Principles

(National Institute of Corrections)

1. Crime is an offense against human relationships.
2. Victims and the community are central to justice processes.
3. The first priority of justice process is to assist victims.
4. The second priority is to restore the community to whatever degree possible.
5. The offender has a personal responsibility to victims and to the community for wrongs committed.
6. Stakeholders share responsibility for Restorative Justice through partnerships for action.
7. The offender will develop improved competency and understanding as a result of the Restorative Justice experience.

## Three Pillars of Restorative Justice

Howard Zehr, Little Book of Restorative Justice

1. Restorative Justice focuses on harm.
2. Wrongs or harms result in obligations.
3. Restorative Justice promotes engagement or participation

## Restorative Justice Signposts:

We are working toward restorative justice when we...

- 1...focus on the *harms* of wrongdoing more than the rules that have been broken,
- 2...show equal concern and commitment to *victims and offenders*, involving both in the process of justice,
- 3...work toward the restoration of victims, empowering them and responding to their needs as they see them,

## VICTIMIZATION

### FOUR MAJOR IMPACT AREAS

PHYSICAL	EMOTIONAL	PSYCHOLOGICAL	FINANCIAL
Trauma to body	Fear	Paranoia of others or of being alone	Personal out-of-pocket expenses
Bruises	Anger	Social isolation	Loss of wages/ inability to work/ loss of job
Broken bones	Hopelessness	Intimidation by others	Insurance deductibles
Cuts	Helplessness	Manipulation by others	Law enforcement costs
Burns	Isolation	Crying Outbursts	Prosecution/ trial costs
Scars	Insecurity	Panic Attacks	Costs of jails, camps, halls, institutions, prisons, and special community programs
Black Eyes	Sadness	Inability to sleep	Medical costs
Tremors/shaking	Guilt	Inability to feel clean and need to bathe or wash many times	Funeral costs
Fatigue	Shame	Depression	
Ulcer	Embarrassment	Wanting to die	
Stomach pains/aches	Confusion	Nightmares	
Pregnancy	Depression	Difficulty having normal sexual relationship	
Loss of life	Suicidal feelings		
Sexually transmitted diseases	Vulnerability		
	Powerlessness		